

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
OCTOBER 2000

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the October 12, 2000 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- Robert Kendal, Director of the Office of Management and Budget gave an overview of the County's fiscal situation.
- Guidelines for six new classes were approved. These classes are part of the revised training curriculum under the *Certification Standards for Training and Experience Requirements* Regulation which is in effect January 1, 2001.
- Action on the proposed revisions to the *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* Regulation was deferred to the November FRC meeting.
- Revisions to the *SOPs for Safe Structure Firefighting Operations* Policy were adopted.
- A correction to Appendix A-1 of the *Certification Standards for Training and Experience Requirements* Regulation was approved.
- The *Standard Apparatus Identification Graphic Design for County-Owned Fire /Rescue Vehicles* Policy was discussed.
- A request from Kensington VFD to reconsider the staffing policy for Truck 5 and Rescue Squad 21 was referred to the FRC Operations Committee.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

IMF/Avon Breast Cancer Walk - Community events were critiqued at the May 17th EMG quarterly meeting. Assistant Chief Rob Barnhouse, County Police, presented lessons learned from the tactical use of our Emergency Operations Center for the World Bank demonstrations in DC. The Avon Breast Cancer Walk had anticipated heat related injuries and an increased patient load to hospitals. The EMG will now appoint its own Planning Team to liaison with outside community event organizers for similar large events.

Hurricane Season - At the May 17th EMG meeting Barbara Watson, National Weather Service reminded agencies of start of Hurricane season June 1st and described new technologies available for improved forecasting of severe storms and notifications to local jurisdictions.

Bio-terrorism Initiatives - The Emergency Management Group will conduct a bio-terrorism exercise this fall with Holy Cross, Suburban, Montgomery General, Shady Grove Adventist, and Washington Adventist Hospitals. Two federal hospitals are

currently negotiating to participate in the exercise. Kathleen Henning continues working with the Council of Governments Regional Bioterrorism Defense Plan Executive Work Group. Police and Fire Rescue are working through the State MERIT work group on the State Anti-Terrorism Plan.

Community Education Safety Section

- Met w/ EMG Director.
- Review of Community Education Programs and Procedures.
- Met with various task forces, Child Passenger Safety, SAFE Kids, etc., for introduction and familiarization.
- Met with various department staff and members for introduction and familiarization.
- Installed 3 visual smoke detectors which impacted a total of 4 adults and 3 children.
- Assisted various career and LRFD staff with Open House activities by providing staff and materials. 1,100 Brochures, 300 stickers, and 3 rolls of posters provided.
- Drafted various Info Bulletins and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Provided staff and assistance to 6 MCPS schools including: 2,000 brochures, 1,050 stickers, 3 rolls of posters, 100 coloring books, and 25 plastic helmets.
- Attended Staff meetings.
- Presented various lectures/presentations to various civic groups reaching 100 children and over 500 adults (health Fairs included).
- Disseminated Halloween Bags for station outreach efforts: Station 25: Halloween party & parade 10/28 for 2 hours w/ 9 personnel attending 120 children and 40 adults.
Station 23-A: Attended birthday party and event at Zainey Braineey where 30 bags handed out. 6 personnel attended.
Station 14: on 10/29 handed out bags at local grocery store. 5 personnel.
- Assisted w/ National Walk Your Kid to School Day. Department provided close to 1,000 Safety Vests to 3 elementary schools.
- Answered numerous customer inquiries.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes.
- Presentation to Recruit Class # 18 (2 hours).
- Delivered supplies to FS18, FS14, FS29, FS08, and RS2
- Met w/ Program Managers for Car Safety and Safe House(4 hours)
- Met w/ all 3 shifts Lt.'s and Capt's. at Op Chiefs meeting.
- Budget items.
- Arranged for FF3 Carlos Bereciartu to appear on local spanish language radio station.
- Appeared with Capt Jim Resnick on WMAL radio.
- Met w/ Peggy Webb – member of MD Committee on Hearing impaired issues – regarding visual detectors. She delivered 12 free for installation.
- Attended NaCo Awards.
- Assisted local marketing firm with fire safety brochure. Captain Sam Hsu assisted. 3 hours.
- Provided Safe House and 2 personnel to Boy Scout Jamboree in Damascus. Over 300 teenagers impacted.
- Sent out Halloween Safety Tips to all Stations.
- Ran mile and a half w/ recruit class #18.

- Meeting w/ Mike McAdams re Inside DFRS (2 hours). Also appeared on Inside DFRS.
- Designed Fire Station Event form.
- Designed FYI form.

Corporate Development Services:

Administrative Services Coordinator

- Developed facility location recommendations for the DFRS Property Section, for Community Relations – SON Program storage, and for an IT Work Center with assistance from Property Manager.
- Met with the DPW&T Division of Fleet Management along with the MCFRS Fleet Manager to discuss the delivery and distribution of FY00 purchased replacement vehicles and the acquisition of FY01 funded replacement vehicles.
- Participated in the review of the changes to NFPA Standard #1971 (PPE) and its impact on MCFRS protective coats and trousers specifications with the Property Manager, Fire Marshal, DFRS Operations Bureau Deputy Chief and DFRS Safety Team.
- Participated in the MCFRS Strategic Goal-Setting Meeting.
- Presented the CDS FY02 Operating Budget requests to the Fire Administrator and MCFRS Budget Office staff.
- Provided staff support to various Fire and Rescue Commission committees and sub-committees.
- Responded to several requests for telephone repairs and voice mail modifications and assisted with telephone installations for the Internal Affairs/ Safety Office relocation.

Automation Section

- Assisted with data line installations for the Fire & Explosives Investigations and Internal Affairs/Safety Office relocations.
- Began the upgrading of client access on the Enterprise Network with the upgraded Netware Client software on PSTA workstations.
- Configured a color laser printer at the PSTA.
- Continued participation in the Mobile Data Project.
- Continued training the Data Manager to assure responsibility for the EMBRS program.

- Continued training the District Chiefs on the use of Info-Keys. Any District Chief who still needs training should contact Bonnie Bigenho at (240) 777-2491.
- Coordinated and submitted the MCFRS FY02 Operating Budget Information Technology (IT) submission that included 15 requests. The requests ranged from additional computer equipment for use at the fire and rescue stations to more IT positions in support of the Mobile Data Project.
- Installed new/fax/copier/scanners, CD-writers, modems and EMBRS printers at the DFRS District Chiefs' Offices.
- Prepared and submitted the Automation Section's FY02 Operating Budget request, which included additional funding for automation training.
- Processed 9 Telephone Service Requests for department.
- Responded to over 100 requests for hardware and software assistance from the various components of the MCFRS.
- Responded to 5 requests for statistical data and information from various components of the MCFRS and the public, including an update for the County Council's Public Safety Committee on EMBRS.
- Worked with DIST to extend the contract to convert the staffing/scheduling program from dBASE to Access. Work on the scheduling modules is ready to begin.

Fleet and Facilities Section

- Continued the management of the Brush Truck and EMS Units procurements.
- Continued the oversight of major repairs to stock #1937620 (TW17-1) and stock #1862004 (E-91) and the oversight of refurbishment of stock #1862030.
- Met with the DPW&T Division of Fleet Management along with the MCFRS Administrative Services Coordinator to discuss the delivery and distribution of FY00 purchased replacement vehicles and the acquisition of FY01 funded replacement vehicles.
- Provided the PS 2000 Project with facilities-related budget data for the installation of Fibernet and station alerting equipment and fleet-related data for mobile radio and data installations.
- Reviewed and provided staff analysis on the MCFRS FY02 Operating Budget facilities and fleet related requests.
- Traveled to Seagrave Fire Apparatus in Clintonville, Wisconsin to perform a factory inspection of a 1989 Seagrave aerial ladder truck (stock #2892060, T-3), which is in the final stages of refurbishment.

Property Section

- Assisted DVFRS Chief with review of LFRD requests for supplemental funding for leather protective boots.
- Evaluated bids associated with a RFQ for protective hoods and forwarded a vendor selection recommendation to the Office of Procurement.
- Met with DFRS Operations Bureau and Safety Team to review changes to NFPA Standard #1971 (PPE) and to discuss several changes to the specification for protective coats and trousers.
- Prepared and submitted the Property Section's FY02 Operating Budget requests.
- Processed 216 property transactions during the month of October 2000.
- Worked with Administrative Services Coordinator to develop facility location recommendations for the DFRS Property Section, for Community Relations – SON Program storage, and for an IT work center.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Participated in the annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony.
- Met with Dist. Chief Clemens regarding UAE training courses and emergency system assessment plans.
- Met with Dist. Chief Carr and various management personnel regarding the PS 2000 project.
- Attended the Senior Staff meeting.
- Attended a special Fire Board meeting (Ferrara Dr.)
- Attended the weekend seminar DECON 2000.
- Met with DVFRS staff regarding the Division budget.
- Attended the Pollution Committee (DEP) monthly meeting regarding the Executive Order.
- Participated in the quarterly meeting with senior fire and police management.
- Met with the Fire Administrator and Budget Officer regarding the DVFRS budget.
- Attended the retirement party for Assistant Chief Fitch.
- Attended the FRC conference on goal setting.
- Attended a full management staff meeting regarding the budget.

- Attended the Fire Board, FRC, Operations Committee, Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee and the Chiefs' Committee meetings.
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

- The Bureau is planning for the annual re-certification process for paramedics, CPR, AED, SCBA, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Haz Mat. Several changes in the training delivery system, re-certification time line and testing process are under consideration. This process will be system wide, and implementation will occur first of 2001.
- We are working to improve on after event community interaction. We are focusing on both the victims, and local residents. Our effort at community outreach is both educational and informative.
- We continue the focus on driver training. We are working with many of the LFRD's to develop additional orientations for Rescue Squads and Quints. While we do not have consensus, we are working towards success.
- We are ramping up to support the implementation of the new communications and data systems. Our support currently is in the form of staffing who must check all response routes, and preplan development.

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:

From September 18 through 21, the US&R Team was onsite at the old Nike site in Laytonsville to support a drill with the United States Secret Service and the US Army, Military District of Washington. The 24-hour a day drill exercised the Army engineering unit responsible for Building Collapse Rescue at the White House. Our Team members, along with Fairfax County's US&R Team, designed and built the training props, and staffed the training exercise as facilitators, safety personnel and technical experts.

On September 23, The US&R provided a public education demonstration at the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department Open House at Station 3.

On September 24, the Emergency Medical Support POD was on-site to assist at the Mass Casualty Incident drill at Laytonsville Station 17. The personnel received an orientation to the operation and capabilities of the EMS Pod.

On September 29, the US&R coordinated the delivery of the required pharmacy

to a FEMA Incident Support Team being pre-deployed for Hurricane Isaac. Our US&R Team has recently entered into a cooperative agreement with Shady Grove

Adventist Hospital to have them supply the pharmaceutical items for our Task Force responses as well as the FEMA IST responses. Shady Grove maintains both portable pharmacies at their facility, using their resources and personnel to manage the rotation of expirable items then they make them immediately available to us when we notify them of a deployment. This is an enormous benefit since the day-to-day management of the more than 140 drugs in the Team's pharmacy requires constant attention and now the hospital handles that for us. We are grateful that Shady Grove Adventist Hospital is so supportive of our Team.

From October 15 thru 21, the Team assisted the United States Department of State with a training program for 21 Ukrainians. The visiting officials represented various branches of the Ukrainian national emergency services. The Team provided programs on US&R operations while several other department personnel assisted with programs in their area of expertise. Captain Mike Nelson took them on a tour of Metro and Amtrak, Captain Dave Henry reviewed Hazmat operations, and District Chief Buddy Ey toured the Emergency Communications Center and the discussed the County's Emergency Management Group. District Chief Mike Clemens assisted by providing the space and logistical support at PSTA.

From November 12 through 18 several Team members participated in a FEMA training and evaluation exercise in California. Captain Mike McCarty, District Chief Buddy Ey, and Lieutenant Pete Friedman participated in Incident Support Team training. Lieutenant Dallas Lipp served as an evaluator for the mobilization exercise with the Nevada Task Force. Lieutenant Scott Goldstein was an exercise facilitator.

Swiftwater Rescue Team

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Administration

Communications

Insurance Service Office (ISO), 12 trainees, toured the Emergency Communications Center on October 4th.

Marilyn Browning is in the process of finishing the MCFRS Communications Directory and should be distributed early November.

The Continuing Dispatch Education (CDE) subject for the month is "Why Prioritize."

The process for the Administrative Call Taker position continues. Six people

have been interviewed and a selection will be made early November.

911 FACTS for October:

911 incoming calls	– 9483
911 overflow calls	– 1195
Administrative calls	– <u>7294</u>
Total calls in/out	17,972

Training

Members of Recruit Class #18 have completed Essentials of Firefighting in October and have begun Firefighter III.

The Fire and Rescue Commission has approved the minimum training courses for 2001: Essentials II, Company Level Operations, Fire Officer III, EMS Officer I, EMS Officer II, EMS Company Level Operations.

Training Academy Staff continues working with DIST, Lucent Technologies and PSTA Distance Learning Work Group on the View Station Video Conferencing System.

Two career EMT-Paramedics, one volunteer EMT-Paramedic and four volunteer CRT's (Cardiac Rescue Technician) were awarded status in October.

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Fire Code Enforcement

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In October, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 15 accidental fires and 13 incendiary fires. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 14 incidents; of these incidents nine were for suspicious packages. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$1,113,000 and \$106,550 for incendiary fires.

The Investigation Section participated in numerous open houses this month both in and out of the county.